

Application No.: 10/762,070

Docket No.: JCLA12713-R

### AMENDMENTS

#### In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A standard mechanical interface (SMIF) box for storing a reticle, comprising:

a base pedestal for holding the reticle;

a box cover fitting with the base pedestal; and

means for preventing the surface of the reticle from being covered by ~~the~~ ammonium sulfate crystals.

2. (currently amended) The SMIF box of claim 1, wherein the means for preventing the surface of the reticle from being covered by ~~the~~ ammonium sulfate crystals includes an O-ring between the base pedestal and the box cover and ~~a drying agent~~ an ammonium-sulfate removing agent in the inner surface of the box cover.

3. (currently amended) The SMIF box of claim 2, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net for retaining the ~~drying agent~~ ammonium-sulfate removing agent.

4. (previously presented) The SMIF box of claim 2, wherein the box cover has a circular groove near edges of the box cover for holding the O-ring.

5. (previously presented) The SMIF box of claim 4, wherein  
the circular groove has a approximately rectangular shape; and  
the box cover further has four cavities at four inner corners of the circular groove for holding the drying agent.

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6. (currently amended) The SMIF box of claim 5, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net that seals each cavity for retaining the ~~drying agent~~ ammonium-sulfate removing agent.

7. (currently amended) A reticle loading system, comprising:

an SMIF box for storing a reticle, comprising a base pedestal for holding the reticle, a box cover fitting with the base pedestal and means for preventing the surface of the reticle from being covered by the ammonium sulfate crystals, wherein the means for preventing the surface of the reticle from being covered by the ammonium sulfate crystals includes an O-ring and a ~~drying agent~~ an ammonium-sulfate removing agent, the box cover has a circular groove at inner surface thereof and the O-ring is placed in the circular groove; and

a hermetic SMIF box loader for separating the base pedestal from the box cover and taking in the base pedestal with the reticle thereon.

**Claims 8-9 (canceled)**

10. (currently amended) The reticle loading system of claim 7, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net for retaining the ~~drying agent~~ ammonium-sulfate removing agent.

**Claim 11 (canceled)**

12. (currently amended) The reticle loading system of claim 7, wherein  
the circular groove has a approximately rectangular shape; and  
the box cover further has four cavities at four inner corners of the circular groove for holding the ~~drying agent~~ ammonium-sulfate removing agent.

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13. (currently amended) The reticle loading system of claim 12, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net that seals each cavity for retaining the ~~drying agent~~ ammonium-sulfate removing agent.

14. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 7, wherein the hermetic SMIF box loader has an inert gas inlet and an air outlet thereon.

15. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 14, wherein the inert gas inlet comprises a nitrogen gas inlet.

**Claims 16-17 (canceled)**